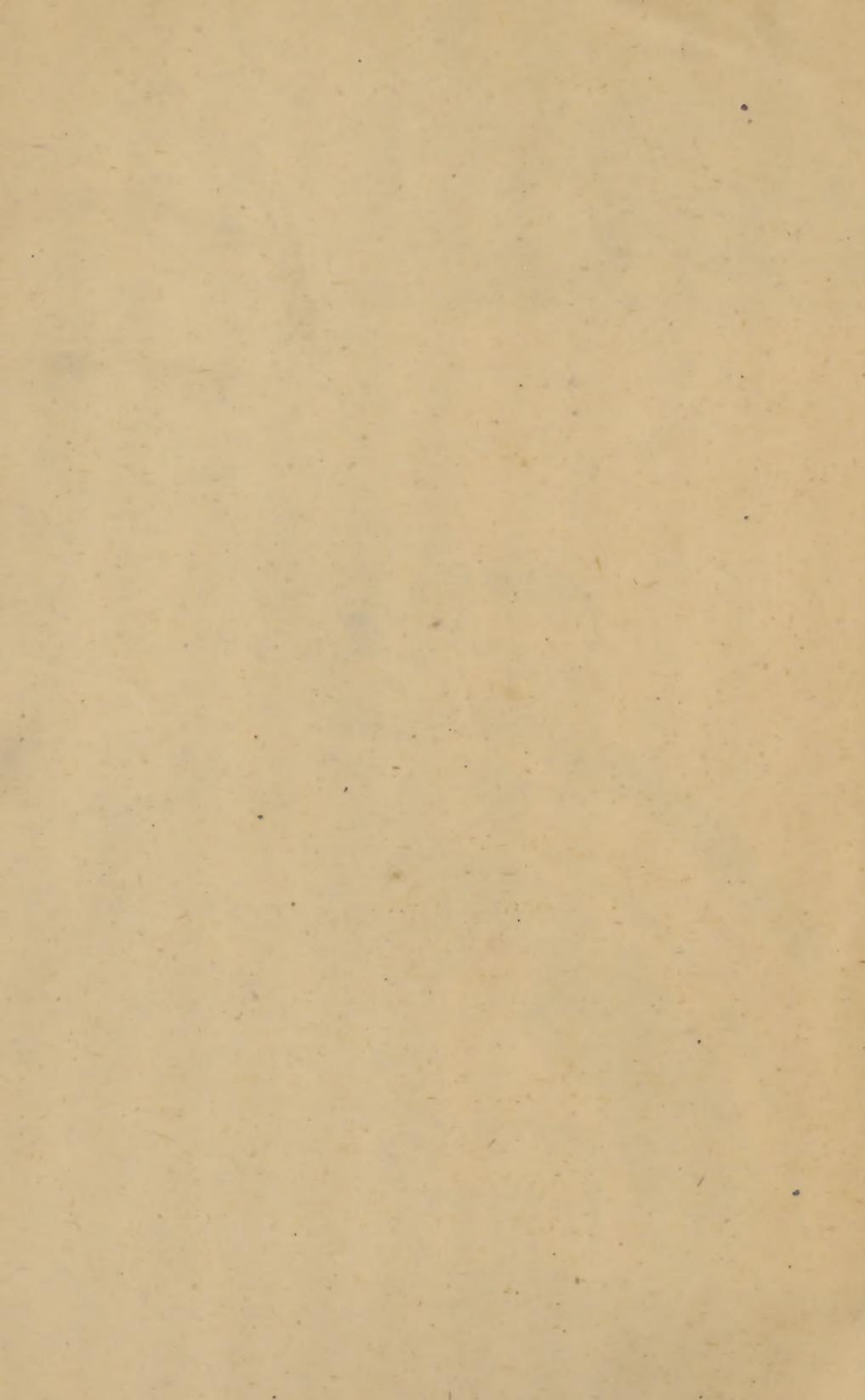


Brown (J. K.)

Poisoning by oil of cedar.





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POISONING BY OIL OF CEDAR.

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MRS. P., twenty-three years old, married, having one child and being pregnant three months, took half an ounce of oil of cedar at 10 o'clock P.M. In an hour she was seized with vertigo and a sensation of pins and needles all over the body, immediately followed by a convulsion lasting three minutes and attended with loss of consciousness, rigidity of the body, frothing at the mouth, stertorous breathing, and bilious vomiting.

Ten minutes after the first convulsion there followed another, lasting about ten minutes and attended with the same symptoms as the first, except that the vomited matter was thin and watery at first, afterward resembling coffee-grounds, and finally becoming almost black. There was no diarrhea and no micturition.

When I saw the woman, two hours after she had taken the oil of cedar, she was apparently unconscious, but by vigorous shaking could be aroused. Her face was pale, her expression anxious, and she was somewhat delirious and much afraid that she would die. The skin was cold and clammy; the pulse was rapid and weak, scarcely perceptible at radial artery; the first sound of the heart could be but feebly heard.

Respiration was rapid. There was still a little vomiting of coffee-ground material, and complaint of severe bearing-down pain as though her pelvic organs would be expressed. I at once administered hypodermatically

strychnine sulph., grs. $\frac{1}{30}$, and prescribed: Rx. Bismuthi subnitratis, gr. xx; strychninæ sulphatis, gr. $\frac{1}{30}$; morphinæ sulphatis, gr. $\frac{1}{6}$; M. S. Every hour. I also ordered spiritus frumenti, 3ij, every twenty minutes, and hot blankets and hot bottles to be applied to the extremities.

In an hour the patient was much improved. There had been no vomiting for half an hour. The pain was much less and the heart-sounds were much clearer, with a pulse of 90. The respirations were twenty-two per minute. The skin was warm and moist. The prescription of bismuth, strychnine, and morphine was continued every three hours. The whiskey was discontinued. Ten hours later I found the woman out of bed. She maintained that she felt as well as usual. There had been no more vomiting and there was no pain, but she stated that a dark-colored discharge took place from the vagina, which continued until the end of pregnancy. There was suppression of urine for thirty-six hours. The patient did not miscarry, but went to full term, and was delivered of a full-sized but not healthy-looking child.

